

## BICYCLING TOURISTS.

The Most Pleasurable Feature of the Wheelman's Existence.

The people who go abroad on wheels are of many types, a number of which are designated, the mere name making further description unnecessary: the boy who rushes along the block on his fiery, untamed three-wheeler; the youth who rides a safety so constructed that as the boy grows the saddle is elongated, and the wheel is always a good "fit" for him until he is ready to go into long trousers; the boy between seventeen and twenty; this boy, by the way, may be divided into two types—the style who rushes in front of pedestrians to their consternation and his amusement, who rides hands off, hands on, legs over handles, rushes up hill, wheels down, frightens horses and is "fresh," irresponsible and show-off generally; the better type of the boy cyclist is he who rides along nicely and enjoys the sport.

And now we are up to the "men" cyclists; the reporter who collects news wheels; the clergyman who makes the rounds; the multitudinous army of clerks who fight off dyspepsia, indigestion, melancholia, and general incapacity by a ride in the park or on the roads after business hours. Then there is the large army who take up the sport not as a life-preserver, or appetizer, or muscle-maker, but for the merits of the thing itself, for the opportunity it gives one to wander far afield in search of beauty and recreation.

Besides the riders who go out for constitutional jaunts, there are two other classes, those who tour and those who race, either on the road or path.

Touring is the most pleasurable feature of the sport. Sufficient changes of clothing may be carried to make one comfortable for a few days. To enjoy a tour, a man should first plan to ride not more than forty or fifty miles a day, appoint definite stopping places and stick to schedule. The clothing used should be of woolen material, which best absorbs perspiration and prevents colds and stiffness. Few men enjoy touring alone, and if he has a companion who does not ride any faster or slower than yourself can be selected, you will enjoy the tour much better.

The greatest tour ever made is Thomas Stevens' journey around the globe. Francis P. Thayer, of Hartford, George W. Nellis, of Hekimer, N. Y., and Theodore F. Van Heikbeek, of New York, have all rode across the American continent. F. E. Weaver, of New Haven, has just completed a similar journey. W. Van Wagoner, of Newport, recently rode from Boston to Chicago, and Charles Neilson a few weeks ago from Chicago to New York. Long-distance journeys no longer command admiration. One can now make a tour any distance if he has the time.

The favorite touring districts—that is, riding sections which on account of their good roads are of national reputation—are the roads around Boston; the Lancaster pike, which runs from Philadelphia to Reading; the Orange (N. J.) district, in which are hundreds of miles of good macadam; and the Berkshire district. One of the most famous rides in this country is the ride down the Shenandoah Valley from Hagerstown, Md., to Staunton, Va., and the Natural Bridge distance, nearly two hundred miles—F. P. Prial, in Harper's Weekly.

## SLOW JOHN BULL.

He Fought Typewriters for Years, But Had to Swallow Them at Last.

The head of one of the big typewriter manufacturing concerns was speaking the other day of the hard fight the typewriter people had to overcome English conservatism and get John Bull to actually give their machines a trial.

"You see," he said, "the English people have been used to sending and receiving written letters for so long that they regarded with dismay and disgust the proposition to print their letters for them."

"A certain big manufacturing concern in this city sent a typewritten business letter to Sir William G. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co., the world-famous ship-builders of Liverpool. The two houses had done business together for years, and heavy interests were involved, but the Liverpool concern sent an indignant protest against the printed circular, as they called it, to the New York company. It even went so far as to intimate that Sir William G. Armstrong deemed worthy of a private written letter, instead of a printed circular, it might be compelled to sever its relations with the New York concern."

"It was hard work for the New York company to make the Liverpool concern understand that no discretion was intended and that the printed circular was—otherwise, typewritten letters—were all the go in America. This was only three or four years ago, but since then John Bull has pocketed his conservatism and given typewriters a cordial welcome."—N. Y. Mail and Express.

## AN ARAB DINNER.

Queen Table Manners and Feairly and Woudly. Made Vandy.

While at El Otaja we made friends with the Sheikh of the village, a very dignified and courteous personage, who invited us to dinner, along with the station master and a French gentleman who had lately arrived to try an experiment in vine culture. We were received in a window with a fine handsome carpet and a good deal of furniture of a plain kind. His secretary sat at another table writing most of the time, for the village sheiks exercise magisterial functions. After a preliminary course, served in European fashion, the piece de resistance came on.

The table was cleared and a flat-iron dish, a yard in diameter, was placed there, and two servants bore in a half-grown sheep roasted whole on a wooden spit. This was deposited on the dish and the spit withdrawn. The sheik then proceeded to pull off the choice parts with his fingers and place them on our plates, after which we were expected to help ourselves in the same "go-as-you-please" fashion. The meat was roasted very brown and crisp, and was not so nasty as it sounds. After this followed the great national dish of "cous-cous"—four moistened and rolled by the hand into tiny balls like eggs, then steamed, and served with different sauces or raisins. A wife is valued to a great extent according to her ability to make "cous-cous." We had lots of Algerian wine, which the sheik did not disdain to drink himself. Dates and pomegranates finished the meal.—Nineteenth Century.

ARIEL,  
The Half-Breed.

A Romance of Colonial Days.

BY ROBERT A. GUMMING.

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## CHAPTER XI.—CONTINUED.

When the remains were exhumed from the ruins, Ariel observed that the teeth were larger than those of Mile. Destain and he resolved to search for the stiletto and the belt buckle, which he thought were most likely to resist the fire. For these his search was vain, and what he did find he carried to Mrs. Vernon to whom he confided his discovery. That lady was in the habit of visiting and ministering to the wants of the sick and her people, and she quickly seized another link in the chain of evidence. Taking Ariel with her she proceeded at once to the riverbank, where she found the woman she wanted, seated on the ground, her head bowed down and covered with her blanket. Mrs. Vernon laid her hand on her shoulder and spoke a few words in her own language. The woman unvalled her face on which the lines of hopeless anguish were traced in deepest furrows.

"The daughter of the Great Spirit comes to late," she said; "the child is gone!"

"Where have you buried her?"

"Gone! Gone!" she repeated, with a despairing gesture. With the sweet sympathy of one to whom grief has touched the heart of the bereaved mother, who told her briefly the wrong which had been done her. Her child, a girl of sixteen, died the night before, and the mother went to seek aid among the tribe to bury her the next day. When she returned the corpse was gone. She knew not where Mrs. Vernon was satisfied. She had seen the sick girl and tried to save her; she had also observed the armlet and necklace with the instinctive glance which women bestow on dress or ornament.

"You are right, Ariel," she said, as they turned away from the river. "Mile. Destain still lives, and we will seek if we cannot outwit this Lemourier and restore her to her lover and her family. Go, and tell your master to come to my house this evening."

## CHAPTER XII.

THE THOUSAND ISLANDS.

Where the mighty river of the North, offspring of the "unsalted seas," the great St. Lawrence, reflects in its crystal breast the emerald foliage of the frowning rocks of a thousand isles, now murmuring softly on some pebbled beach, now rushing on with foaming crest and swift impetuous course, like a prodigal sailing with joys and flying from their embrace; in this dreamland of Nature, where the only sounds were the songs of birds, the rustle of leaves, or the gurgle of water forcing its way through narrow rocky channels, a man standing on the shore of one of the islets gazed on the fairy scene with the air of one not so much enchanted by its beauty as to be heedless of time and circumstance. In fact he was a sentinel rather than an artist's admirer—his quick restless eye observing every shadow on the water, every movement of bird or leaf. At his feet a birch canoe was drawn up on the beach; a few paces behind him a boy was brooding some fish upon the embers of a wood fire, while the aroma of coffee prevailed the air.

"Thy upper hath an appetizing smell, Ariel, and I think you may eat it in peace as we left no trail which the eye of a Huron could detect, and without a trail even a bloodhound could not follow us."

So saying he threw himself at length upon the ground and fell into a reverie from which he was presently aroused by Ariel with the intimation that supper was ready. A hungry man might well be thankful for such a banquet, and Marden, having done his duty by the friar, venison, broiled fish and aromatic coffee, lighted his pipe and resumed his reverie, while Ariel extinguished the fire and made other preparations for the approaching night. One by one the stars came out, and the silence would have been oppressive but for the gurgling sound of the water, which had such a soporific effect upon Marden, tired as he was, physically and mentally, that he was obliged to pace the narrow limits of the isle to keep awake until Ariel, refreshed by a few hours' sleep, relieved his guard.

The boy paused not for reveries nor listened to drowsy murmurings. For a moment his eyes swept the obscurity around him, and glancing upward discerned the branches of a lofty tree outlined against the starlit sky. Noiselessly he launched the canoe and soon gained the shore of another and larger island, from the center of which arose the gigantic form of the tree he was in search of, and he soon gained an elevated position among its branches where he remained hour after hour, striving to penetrate the darkness.

With the first faint indication of daylight his patience was rewarded by a spark of fire on a distant isle, between himself and which many others were dimly visible. Then the spark flashed into a flame which grew until he could see that it was fed by dusky figures who momentarily grew more distinct. There were four of them and the spy soon decided that they were whites and that they were about to prepare a meal. Instantly the boy descended from his perch and pushed out in his canoe, which he headed in the direction of the scene he had just witnessed. It was now daylight and he proceeded with great caution, counting the intervening islands until he reached one which he knew must be opposite to the point where he saw the fire. Here he landed and crept along



AT HIS FEET A BIRCH CANOE WAS DRAWN UP.

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until he got a view of the scene, now only a few rods distant. In the foreground was a fire on which were some culinary utensils. Two of the men lounged on the grass, while another aided the cook, whose negro features and the sound of his voice, as he directed his assistant, indicated that he was Lemourier's servant. In the background he caught a glimpse of a rude shelter composed of bark and blankets suspended upon poles driven in the earth, at the entrance of which sat a girl whose long, straight, black hair fell over the vesture of a squaw or half breed.

Ariel waited a few minutes for further developments, and then crept back to the canoe. He found Marden awaiting his return with much anxiety.

"Where hast thou been, Ariel?" he asked. "Thy face indicates some discovery."

The boy at once communicated his adventure, after which he proceeded to prepare breakfast while his master thought out a plan to assure himself of the presence of Mile. Destain in the enemy's camp and to rescue her if possible. After the meal the fire was extinguished, and the baggage transferred to the canoe, which was headed for the island where Ariel made his first observations. There, concealed in the foliage of the great tree, the adventures watched the movements of the enemy.

The whites were lounging on the shore; but the negro was not visible. Presently a tall female figure emerged from the tepee, followed by another, which Ariel recognized as that of the squaw.

The distance was too great to distinguish features, but Marden felt that the tall slender form could belong to no other than Ninon Destain. Two canoes were drawn up on the shore, and the careless demeanor of the men indicated their entire sense of security from attack or observation. Their day's exertions kept watch in the branches until the growing darkness hid the island from view, when they descended and made a fire to prepare the meal which their long abstinence rendered necessary to recruit them for their contemplated enterprise.

After two hours rest, they launched the canoe and steered boldly for the camp of the enemy. The white men were asleep by the fire; but the negro was not to be seen when Ariel stepped on shore to reconnoiter, and crept softly toward the tepee, across the entrance of which was stretched the bulky form of the negro. The boy retraced to the rear of the tepee, where he searched for a crevice in the side. The interior was dark with the exception of a faint ray which struggled through the entrance from the fire without. Baffled in this attempt to communicate with Ninon, Ariel resolved upon a dangerous experiment. Creeping along the ground like a snake, he approached the negro, whose heavy breathing encouraged him to proceed. He arose and stepped over him. In doing so he intercepted the ray of light, which, as he perceived, fell upon the face of the squaw. She moved, and as Ariel glided into the darkness, she raised herself on her elbow, then apparently satisfied, composed herself to rest again. Ariel paused to listen, and soon detected a gentle breathing; he knelt down and touched a hand which shivered and withdrew. Then the negro's voice jarred upon his ear, asking the squaw if she was asleep. The woman replied sleepily. "The boy has not been seen by daylight, and don't expect we will see him again."

"Let me have a dash at them!"

Selwyn looked at his friend in surprise.

"Yes, I know it looks like a rash project, but consider this: The night is dark, the guard is lax, and we have not seen us by daylight, and don't expect we will see him again."

We will man the canoes with thirty rangers armed with the French muskets and our own knives and rifles. We will tackle the first gunboat we reach, sweep her decks first and then tow her up the river here."

Ninon, also awakened, stretched out her hand and encountered that of Ariel. It was a critical moment; would she scream? He placed a finger on her lips. She did not move, but her hand held Ariel traced his name letter by letter on the palm of her hand, and he knew by the pressure on his own that she comprehended all. Her presence of mind saved them, and while she asked the squaw some careless questions, she drew a piece of bark aside and pushed him through it to loom up, and the sound of oars indicated that some of them were being placed in position. Then a gun from the foremost one proclaimed that the siege was begun. Instantly the lights in the fort were extinguished, but the gunboat did not cease firing.

"They have got the range," thought Renwick. Bang! went another gun almost over his head. "Come on, men!" he shouted, grasping the tow rail of the gunboat and springing to the deck, followed by Jabe and the rest with the exception of one man to secure the canoes. The boldness of the attack secured its success, and the Frenchmen, appalled by the suddenness of the assault, fled to their deck or poured in a volley and then charged with the bayonet, dived under hatches, jumped overboard, or surrendered at discretion. Renwick knew there was no time to be lost. The nearest vessel was approaching to see what the news meant, and he would soon have the entire fleet upon him. Promptly he ordered one half his force to return to the canoes in order to tow the prize while the others remained on board to guard against attack. Already objects were becoming faintly visible in the dawn of an August morning, and as Renwick scanned the distance between the enemy and himself, he was gratified to observe that it was momentarily increasing. Evidently the Frenchmen did not quite understand the situation, else they could have made Master Renwick pay dearly for his temerity. As it was, one of the vessels was about to open fire with its bow-guns when Jabe, who had the entire fleet upon him, promptly he ordered one half his force to return to the canoes in order to tow the prize while the others remained on board to guard against attack. Already objects were becoming faintly visible in the dawn of an August morning, and as Renwick scanned the distance between the enemy and himself, he was gratified to observe that it was momentarily increasing. Evidently the Frenchmen did not quite understand the situation, else they could have made Master Renwick pay dearly for his temerity. 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